



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

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**TO:** Executive Directors of Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs),  
Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs), and Consumers and Stakeholders in  
Michigan's Public Mental Health System

**FROM:** Michael J. Head, Director  
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Administration

**SUBJECT:** Implementing Self-Determination: The Choice Voucher System Technical Advisory

In FY 2004, the Self-Determination Policy and Practice Guideline was added as a requirement to the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) contracts with PIHPs and CMHSPs. In the contract language, maintained since that time, CMHSPs and PIHPs were permitted to delay offering the option of allowing for the direct employment of or contracting with a chosen provider to a consumer participating in self-determination up to 90 days following the issuance of a revised Technical Advisory on the Choice Voucher System and best practice standards for fiscal intermediary arrangements.

The attached document, "Choice Voucher System: Self-Determination Technical Advisory," Version 2.0 of September 2008, constitutes the revised Technical Advisory. The advisory document also contains best practice guidance for fiscal intermediary arrangements, including a proposed fiscal intermediary "readiness review" document suggested for use by a PIHP, CMHSP or a subcontracting entity when conducting a process of engaging qualified fiscal intermediary services.

Self-determination is an essential priority of MDCH. MDCH believes that individuals who choose to exercise the principles of freedom, authority, support and responsibility by directing the resources allotted for their supports in a plan of services via the use of an individual budget need to have this option available, regardless of the local area in which they reside. Direct control over the resources allotted for supports and services allows for the person, with support from chosen allies, to achieve a measure of personal authority in controlling and directing provider arrangements so that services match personal preferences and best achieve desired goals as defined in the plan of service. Authority over the use of an individual budget is central for the individual to achieve efficient and best value outcomes on their own personal terms.

As MDCH, in partnership with individuals receiving services and supports, providers and CMHSPs and PIHPs, continues to evolve the opportunity for full participation in self-determination, additional technical guidance as well as periodic informational forums will be provided. MDCH hopes that this Technical Advisory will assist PIHPs and CMHSPs in continuing to expand the provision of innovative and individualized options for individuals who choose to participate in arrangements that support self-determination, leading to improved outcomes and increased quality of life.

cc: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Administration Management Team

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